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IMPORTANT NOTICE TELECOPY/FACSIMILE COVER LETTER

TO: Examiner Joyce Tung

DATE: 11/25/2002

FROM: Wei-Ning Yang

TIME: 11:38 AM

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MESSAGE:

Attached please find our Proposed Response to the Advisory Action for
Application No. 09/335,363; Filed June 17, 1999
Inventor: George Shibata

FOR INTERNAL PURPOSES ONLY

TELECOPY/FAX NUMBER: 703-872-9089
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PATENT
1884-39D (81841.0019)
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

George Shibata et al.

Serial No: 09/335,363

Filed: June 17, 1999

For: SAMPLE LOADING AND HANDLING
INTERFACE TO MULTIPLE
CHEMISTRY ANALYZERS

Art Unit: 1743

Examiner: Bex, Patricia K.

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Date

**PROPOSED RESPONSE TO THE ADVISORY
ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Advisory Action dated November 15, 2002, please consider
the following remarks:

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in the application. In the response to the Final
Office Action, applicants amended claims 1 and 20 to explicitly recite the gripper
feature. The Examiner refused to enter amendments to claims 1 and 20 that were
proposed in the response to the Final Office Action. The Examiner appeared to
believe that "[t]he proposed amendment to independent claims 1 and 20 (i.e.
gripper) introduces previously unclaimed features which would require further
consideration and search." Applicants respectfully disagree.

The amendments of claims 1 and 20 do not introduce a new feature as alleged
by the Examiner. In the response to the Final Office Action, applicants amended
the pertinent part of claim 1 as follows: